

I-5 – Construction in Seattle

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Southbound I-5 lane and ramp closures in Seattle start March 24

If Mother Nature cooperates, construction crews will start work next week on the southbound I-5 James to Olive project in Seattle. Our contractor, Gary Merlino Construction of Seattle, will start closing lanes and ramps at night starting March 24, 2005 to prepare for this major repaving project.

On **Thursday, March 24** crews will install inlet protection to screen freeway runoff in the construction area. At 8 p.m. we will close the easternmost lane on southbound I-5 between Olive Street and James Street. At 11 p.m. we will close the adjacent lane. **All downtown exit ramps will remain open.** We will reopen all lanes of I-5 by 5 a.m. Friday morning, March 25.

Serious construction begins with lane and ramp closures **starting March 28 and continuing until 5 a.m. Friday, April 1.** Crews will prepare for upcoming pavement replacement by grinding the edge of the existing concrete to match up with the new concrete that will be placed, sawcutting, and doing some more drainage work. We will close the two westernmost lanes of southbound I-5, the Howell Street on-ramp and Union Street off-ramp (exit 165B) nightly:

- One lane will close at 8 p.m.
- Ramp closures will start at 10 p.m.
- The second lane will close at 11 p.m.
- All lanes and ramps reopen by 5 a.m.

Despite our best efforts, this construction will be noisy

This overnight construction work is unavoidably noisy. At any time you may hear dump truck back-up alarms, construction equipment, trucks entering and exiting the work zone, and work crew movements in addition to the sound of traffic on I-5. The way that you will hear and perceive our construction will depend upon where your residence is located in relation to the freeway and where crews are working.

We are working with our contractor to find quieter construction methods whenever feasible. In addition, to mitigate and reduce unavoidable noise as much as possible we will:

- adjust back-up warning devices to lowest allowable settings
- use human spotters in lieu of back-up warning devices when allowed by law
- stage operations to minimize back-up activity and truck idling
- require all trucks exporting material from the site to have new rubber or aluminum bed liners. In addition, we are exploring the feasibility of lining the bottom of truck beds with dirt to reduce noise
- shield stationary equipment such as light plants, air compressors, and excavators when feasible

For more information on noise and to read the noise flier that was mailed out to residents visit our Web site at http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i5/james_olive. If you have questions or concerns about noise, please call our noise hotline anytime at 206.768.9052.

Want to learn more about our I-5 James to Olive construction?

You can find lots of great information on our project Web site, including construction photos, links to real-time traffic cameras, detour maps, and much more. We update the site frequently.

http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i5/james_olive

We recently talked with several neighborhood community groups. If you'd like to invite us to speak to your neighborhood group, contact Pat Patterson at 206.440.4699 or patterp@wsdot.wa.gov.

SR 99 Alaskan Way Viaduct maintenance closure March 26 and 27

The viaduct will be closed from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday from Spokane Street through the Battery Street tunnel for semi-annual bridge inspection.

First round of I-5 noise wall construction now underway on Harvard Avenue in the Roanoke Park neighborhood

Crews have finished clearing and grubbing activities and have begun work on the drilled shafts for the wall foundations. The fabrication of the Harvard Avenue wall panels is under way and they will be installed in April.

Traffic Notice: The southbound right lane along Harvard Avenue from Shelby Street to Roanoke Avenue could be closed periodically, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., until wall construction is complete in May. Construction on the Boylston Avenue wall will begin in summer or early fall.

A mailer announcing the beginning of on-site construction is being sent out to the Eastlake and Roanoke Park addresses in the project area this week. A copy of the mailer is on the Web site at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/roanokenoisewall>.

Northbound I-5 NE 175th Street on-ramp in Shoreline construction to begin March 21

Starting **Monday, March 21** drivers and local residents will notice construction activity and equipment at the 175th Street on-ramp to I-5 in the City of Shoreline. Crews working for WSDOT will be placing fences in the vicinity in preparation for widening work on the on-ramp and on northbound Interstate 5 between Northeast 175th Street and 205th Street.

With construction comes unavoidable traffic slowdowns and inconveniences. Drivers will experience congestion while crews extend the existing merging lane on northbound I-5 from northeast 175th Street on-ramp to the exit only lane at northeast 205th Street exit. Nearby residents and businesses will experience noise at night while crews work day and some nights to get the project done as quickly as possible.

When completed in fall 2006, the project will help relieve traffic congestion and improve safety by providing drivers with more time and extra room to accelerate or decelerate and merge when getting on and off the freeway. In addition, crews will make further safety improvements to this section of I-5.

When complete, drivers will have:

- An additional auxiliary lane on northbound I-5 from the Northeast 175th Street on-ramp to the exit-only lane for the Northeast 205th Street exit
- An additional metered lane on the 175th Street on-ramp
- An extended barrier between northbound and southbound I-5 that will reduce headlight glare
- New retaining walls and stormwater collection and filtering systems to help control erosion and keep water off the roadway

These improvements will reduce waiting to get on I-5 at 175th Street, congestion on Northbound I-5 between 175th and 205th Streets, and backups on 175th Street and near Meridian Road in Shoreline. For up-to-date information, check out the project Web site at http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5/NE175th_NE205th_AuxLane/.

About This E-mail

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